

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 and 13-16 are presently pending in this application, Claim 12 having been canceled and Claims 1 and 16 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-5, 7, and 9-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 10086754A ("JP'754"); and Claims 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP'754 in view of Sorum (U.S. Patent 6,516,741).

Amended Claim 1 is fully supported by the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed. Applicants therefore submit that no new matter has been introduced.

Briefly recapitulating, Claim 1 is directed to a mirror base. For example, referring to the non-limiting embodiment of Figs. 1 and 2, a mirror base 1 includes a mount piece 1A to be mounted on a car, and a support piece 1B projecting from the mount piece 1A and adopted to support a mirror body 2. The mount piece 1A and the support piece 1B are integrally made of a resin. A reinforcing core member 3 is separately formed from the mount piece 1A and the support piece 1B and is buried inside across the mount piece 1A and the support piece 1B. The reinforcing core member 3 includes a continuous flange 3A formed in a marginal region of the reinforcing core member 3.

Accordingly, in the present invention recited in Claim 1, because the core member is separately formed from the mount piece and the support piece, and buried so as to secure the sufficient flexural rigidity of the support piece relative to the mount piece, the mount piece and the support piece do not have to be integrally molded of a high-rigidity resin or die casting

material. Instead, they can be integrally molded of a lightweight and inexpensive resin material.<sup>1</sup>

The Office Action asserts that JP'754 discloses that a reinforcing core member is buried inside across the mount piece and the support piece.

However, JP'754 fails to disclose that the reinforcing core member which is **separately formed from the mount piece and the support piece** is buried inside across the mount piece and the support piece. Further, JP'754 fails to disclose that the reinforcing core member includes a continuous flange formed in a marginal region of the reinforcing core member.

Accordingly, JP'754 is not believed in any way to anticipate the specific features recited in Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Substantially the same arguments as set forth above with regard to Claim 1 also apply to dependent Claims 2-11 and 13-16, which depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1.

Accordingly, each of the dependent claims is also believed to be allowable.

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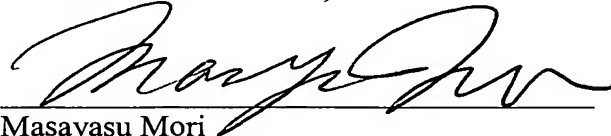
<sup>1</sup> See the present specification, page 9, line 22, to page 10, line 3.

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Consequently, in view of the present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Masayasu Mori', is written over a horizontal line.

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